1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
S14 Abipon S14

roads, or their want of acquaintance with them. It sometimes happens that a lake or marsh, which the Abipones swim with ease, obliges the Spanish cavalry to abandon the pursuit.

The whole territory of the Abipones scarcely contains a place which has not received a name from some memorable event or peculiarity of that neighbourhood. It may be proper to mention some of the most famous of these places; viz. *Netagrʼanàc Lpátage*, the bird's nest; for in this place birds resembling storks yearly build their nests. *Liquinrʼánala*, the cross, which was formerly fixed here by the Spaniards. *Nihírenac Lcënererʼquiè*, the cave of the tiger. *Paët Latetà*, the bruised teats. *Atopehènrʼa Lauaté*, the haunt of capibaris. *Lareca Caëpa*, the high trees. *Lalegrʼaicavalca*, the little white things. Hail of enormous size once fell in this place, and killed vast numbers of cattle. Many other places are named from the rivers that flow past them. The most considerable are the Evòrayè, the Parana, or Paraguay, the Iñatè, the Rio Grande, or Vermejo, the Ychimaye, or Rio Rey, the Neboquelatèl, or mother of palms, called by the Spaniards Malabrigo, the Narahage, or Inespin, the Lachaoquè Nâuè, Ycalc, Ycham, &c. the Rio Negro, Verde, Salado, &c.

In the sixtieth year of the present century, many families of Abipones removed, some to the

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
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water to that of a spring, because it is lighter and impregnated with fewer noxious particles. The Chinese never taste a drop of cold water. Many think that snow and ice-water cause divers disorders. Snow, ice, springs of water, and subterranean cells for cooling liquors are no where to be found in the territories of the Abipones, who are also unacquainted with wine expressed from grapes, or burnt out of fruits by chemic art. But though they use nothing but water to quench their thirst, yet on the birth of a child, the death of a relation, a resolution of war, or a victory, they assemble together to drink a strong liquor made of honey or the alfaroba infused in water, which when fermented causes intoxication, but taken moderately is of much service to the health. For it is universally thought that the alfaroba and wild honey conduce much to prolong life and confirm the health. The Abipones are in the habit of drinking honey, in which the woods abound, very frequently; what if we call this a cause of their vigour and longevity? Both however they partly owe to the use of the alfaroba, which they either eat dried, or drink in great quantities, as wine, when fermented in water by its own native heat. Taken either way it possesses singular virtue, for it restores the

2: Metraux E-4 (no date) 1946 SI4 Abipon SI4

Mataco SI7

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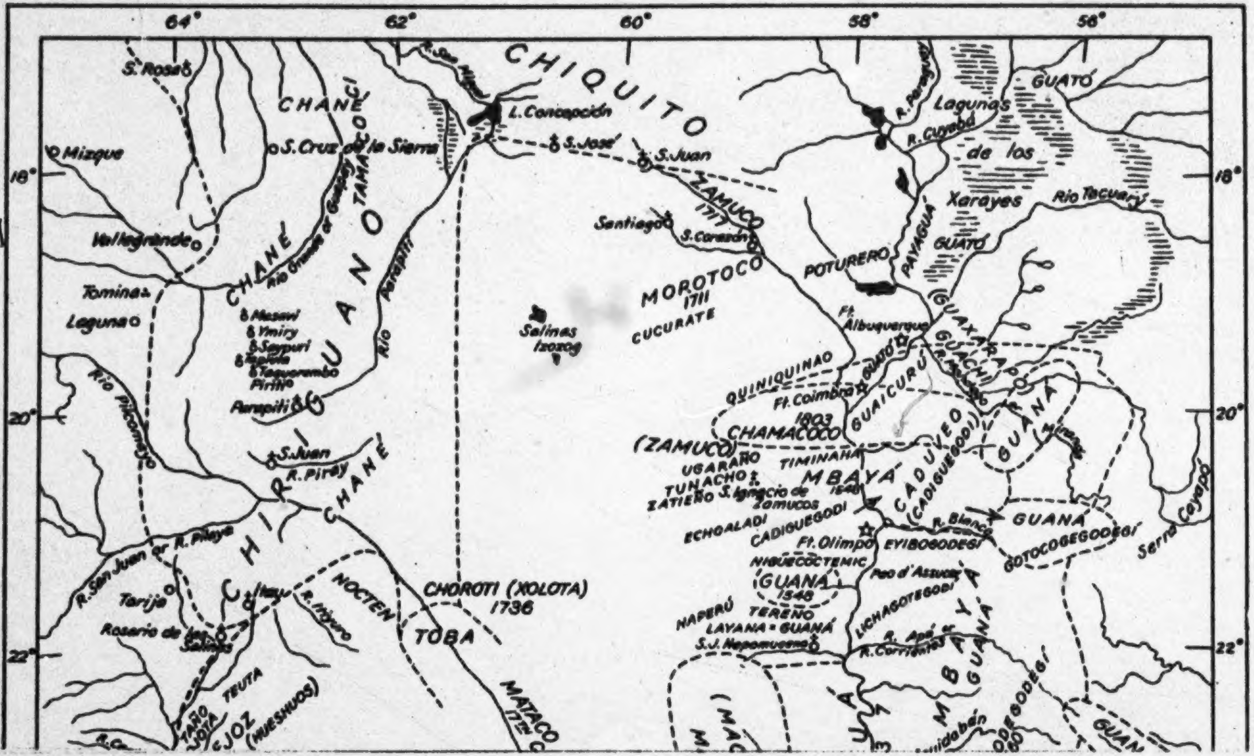
[Facing p. 198 (A)]



2: Metraux E-4 (no date) 1946 SI4 Abipon SI4
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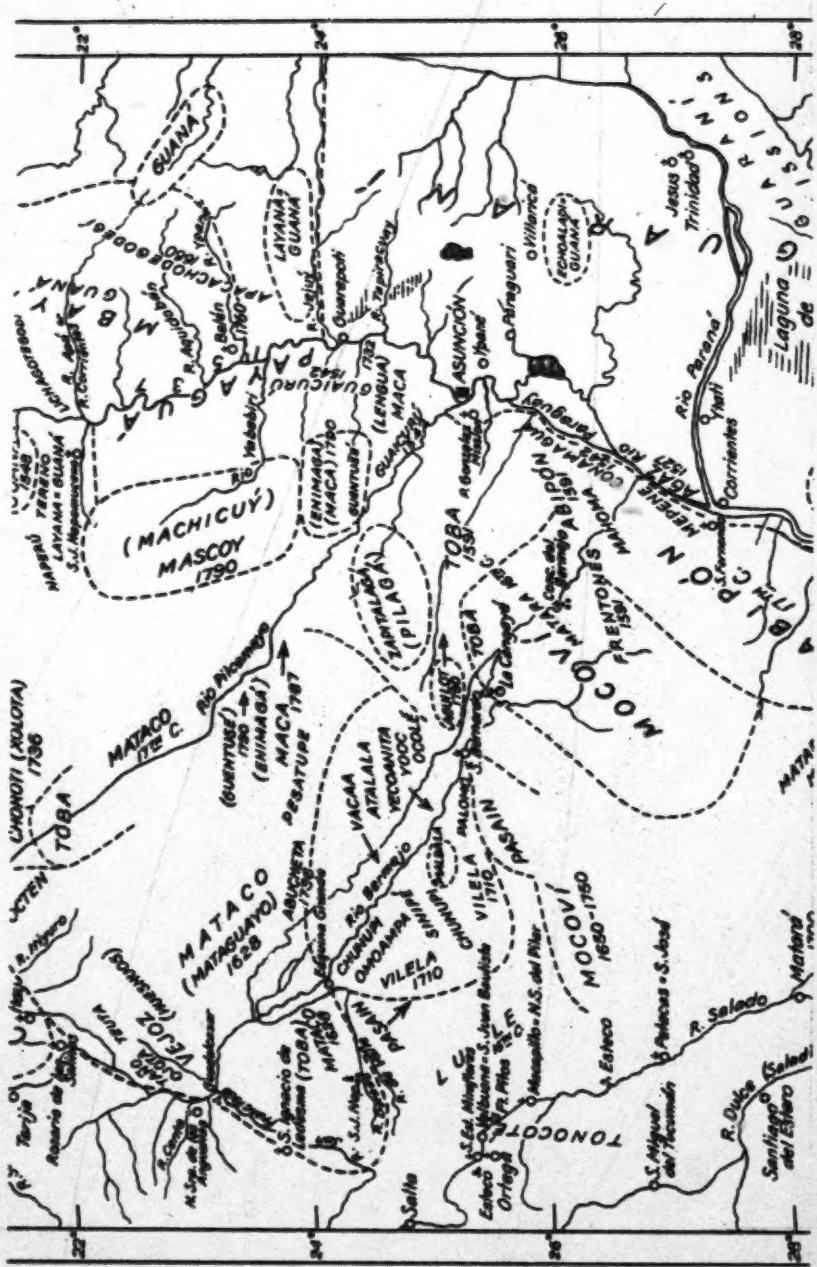
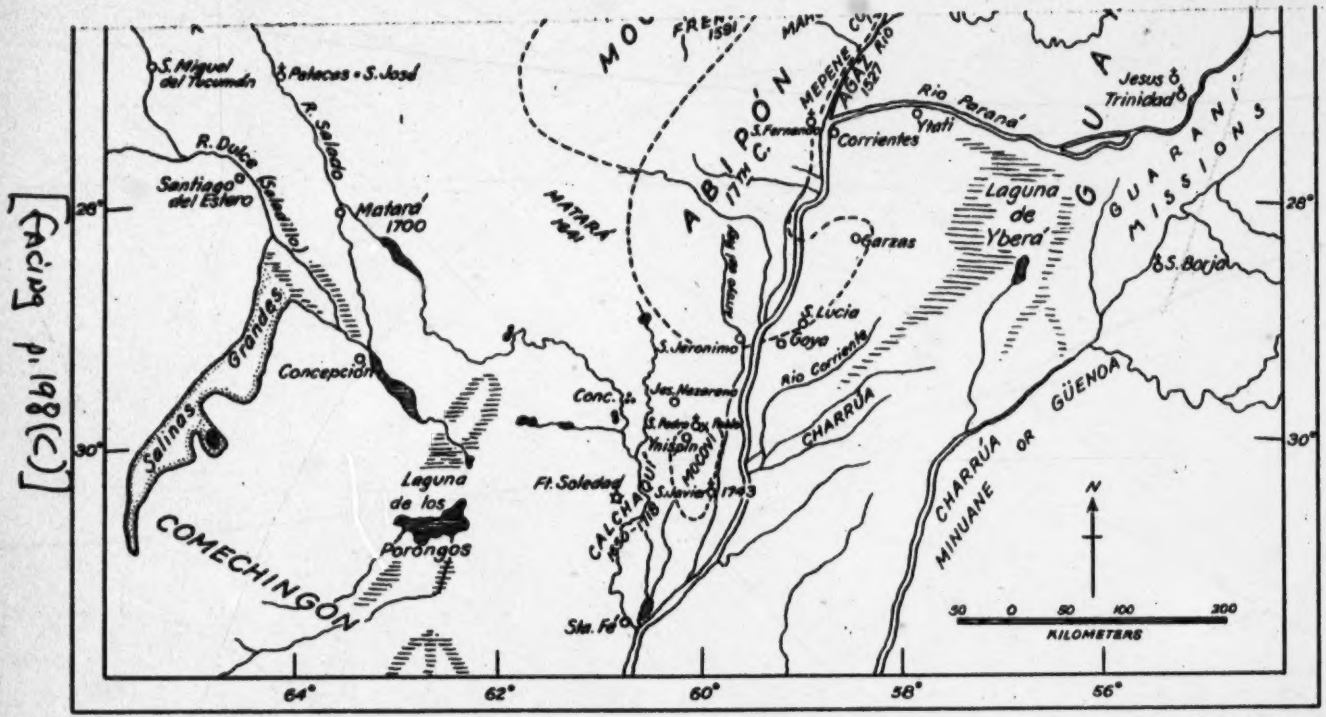


[Facing p. 198(B)]



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MAP 4.–Tribes of the Gran Chaco: Locations at the first European contact.

[Facing p. 198(c)]

2: Metraux E-4 (no date) 1946 SI4 Abipon SI4
Matraco SI7

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